Art 365 Digital Illustration — Syllabus

Eastern Connecticut State University — Spring 2006
Shafer Hall Davis Lab, Room 201, Thursday & Fridays — 9:00–10:45 am

Professor — Rebecca Moran
Office hours — by appointment
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Introduction

This is a special topics course designed as an introduction to the world of commercial digital illustration. We will create and compose images using the digital tools of Adobe Illustrator CS3 and Photoshop CS3 image-editing software. The job of an illustrator is to create original illustrations communicating stories, ideas, sensations, facts, feelings and emotions. The focus is on how to create illustrations, choose illustrative styles for particular projects and how illustrators collaborate with graphic designers.

Course Objectives

Learn painting and drawing digitally with image editing software.
Gain knowledge of techniques, application and styles of illustration.
Explore visual storytelling by conceptualizing, organizing & executing illustrations.
Create illustrations for a portfolio.

Required Text

Illustrator CS3 for Windows and Macintosh: Visual Quickstart Guide
by Weinmann and Lourekas

Required Materials

ITOYA presentation book. 8.5"x 11" or 9"x 12"
CD's or storage media

Recommended Art Materials

Markers/layout paper, tracing paper 8"x 10"
Prismacolor or markers in black fine,
medium and broad nibs, water colors, pastels
HB Pencils, pen (mechanical pencils work well)
Eraser, Exacto knife/blades, thin brush
30" metal Tee- square, sketch book
18" metal ruler, drafting tape

Attendance

A sign-in sheet will be available during each class. It is each student's responsibility to locate and sign it. Come to class on time and prepared. 20 minutes late to class or leaving 20 minutes early will be marked as an absence, unless excused by the instructor. Attendance to all class meetings is required. There will be something new taught every class and attendance is directly related to class participation.

After 2 unexcused absences, each absence will lower your grade by one-half increments. No exception. Students are responsible for all missed assignments. Makeup work from missed classes must be submitted by the next class after the absence or it will be considered a missed project. If there is a problem attending a class, the instructor should be consulted and notified in advance if possible. Your full participation and attendance is valued and required.

Studio Projects

The timely completion of illustration projects is a critical part of being an illustrator. Class critiques are held when each project is completed. You will hand in hard copies of the project including your notes and project outline or brief in the ITOYA presentation book. Collaboration, personal expression and content development is required along with the learning of the software tools and techniques. Be prepared to put time in outside of class, in order to practice the software gone over in class. It is your responsibility to keep updated and know your tools and materials.

In addition to any final art work, all projects must include a short paragraph or written description of the work done to show the progression of your growth Projects may be submitted in both hard copy and electronic format according to the assignment. Label your work/presentation book with your name, date, project, title and course number.

The evaluation of your work will be based on your contribution to the problem solving process. Projects are evaluated on how you create the illustrations *related to the assignment*.

Creativity and craftsmanship are also important, affecting the outcome of the finished work. You are responsible for understanding the projects, assignments and class exercises. Please ask questions if you don't understand. A student evaluation form will be provided for each project providing feedback.

When handing in an assignment ask yourself…
Does this work meet the criteria of the brief as assigned? Is the project well crafted and neat? If it isn't neatly presented it will hurt your grade. Is the work original? Did you learn how to use the software and/or concepts? Did you follow through on the class exercises? Did you show or explain your process or how you did your work?

Basic workstation maintenance of the computer and peripheral devices is also considered as part of your grade. Work at the same computer during each class if you can. Keep assignments and projects well organized in a folder in Student Work. Back up your work on CD's or other storage media. Do NOT store files on the desktop, they may be removed.

Evaluation of Projects

Execution of Software and Craftsmanship. 30%
Creative and original Problem Solving. 25%
Test, Quizzes. 25%
Participation.10%
Due dates. 10%

Upon completion projects will be evaluated using the University grade scale of (A-F). Mid term and Final grades will be an average of the grades on all completed projects, taking into account any other factors such as absences, late work, etc. Your final grade is based on the submission of a portfolio which includes the studio projects completed throughout the semester. A final project may also include a group presentation and paper. All assigned projects must be completed in order to pass this course.

Due Dates

All work is expected to be completed by the due dates given. Unless otherwise specified, all work is due at the beginning of the class period. If there is a problem in meeting a deadline, please consult me in advance.

Printing can be problematic, do not wait until the last minute to print out your projects. To print out a hard copy of final work use the black and white laser printer for proofing. The color printer is available for final color prints only.

Recommended Reading

The Adobe Illustrator CS3 Wow! Book by Sharon Steuer

Secrets of Digital Illustration by Lawrence Zeegen

How to Cheat in Photoshop: The Art of Creating Photorealistic Montages
by Steve Caplin

Magazines

Print Magazine, How Magazine, Communication Arts Magazine, Graphis, ID Magazine, Émigré.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability and believe you will need accommodations for this class, it is your responsibility to contact the Office of AccessAbility Services at 456- 5573. To avoid any delay in the receipt of accommodations, you should contact the Office of AccessAbility Services as soon as possible. Please note that I cannot provide accommodations based upon disability until I have received an accommodation letter from the Office of AccessAbility Services. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Tentative Projects

Subject to change based on the needs of the class

1. Black and White Spot Illustrations/ Advertising
2. Technical Illustrations/ Line art/ Crosshatching
3. Children's Book Illustrations/ Narrative images
4. Cartooning or Funny Illustrations/ Humor
5. Botanical/ Animal Illustrations
6. Character Illustrations/ Self-Promotion
7. Medical/ Scientific Illustrations
8. Fashion Illustrations
9. Editorial Illustration
10. Political Satire